AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the abstract, with the following rewritten abstract:

The present invention relates to a vertebral fixing system adapted to be mounted on a vertebra of the spine to connect it to a rod. [[Said]] The fixing system comprises: [[-]] a connecting part adapted to face the rib and/or [[said]] the transverse process and to be connected to [[said]] the rod; [[-]] an elongate flexible ligature adapted to connect together [[said]] the connecting part and at least one rib and/or one transverse process; and [[-]] an adjustable locking screw [[means]] fastened to [[said]] the connecting part and adapted to fix simultaneously in position [[said]] the connecting part relative to [[said]] the rod and at least one portion of [[said]] the ligature relative to [[said]] the connecting part, so as to prevent relative displacement of [[said]] the rod and [[said]] the vertebra in opposite directions.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

To straighten the vertebral column, the lateral edges of the vertebrae on the concave side are moved away from one another and supported at distances from one another substantially equivalent to the distances between the lateral edges on the other side. Devices known in the art are used thereafter to hold the vertebrae relative to one another, and comprise screws that are inserted into the vertebrae or hooks that are inserted along the internal wall of the spinal canal and rods adapted to ~~connects~~ connect the screws or hooks.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The ligature 42 has a first end 44 that is ligated around the pivot pin 32 and a free second end 46 that is inserted into a passage 48 between the rod 10 and the internal walls 50 and 52 of the longitudinal members 14 and 20 and the external wall of the rod 10. As shown in Figure 2, the second longitudinal [[end]] member 20 includes a second orifice 54 through which said ligature 42 passes. Moreover, as shown in Figure 4, the ligature 42 may be formed into a loop 56 in which the transverse process is trapped. Clearly, where applicable, the ligature 42 may also trap the rib.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 34 with the following rewritten paragraph:

It is particularly advantageous if, as shown in Figure 2, the passage 48 has a section [[S1]] 51 in the vicinity of the second orifice 54 greater than the section [[S2]] 52 in the vicinity of the first orifice 40, the section of said passage 48 decreasing progressively in the direction from the second orifice 54 to the first orifice 40. The ligature 42 is therefore progressively compressed around a portion of the rod 10 with a pressure that increases in the direction from the second orifice 54 towards the first orifice 40.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In Figure 4, the flexible ligature 42 consists of a flexible strip of substantially constant width and thickness whose first end is ligated to the pivot pin 32, the ligature surrounding the transverse process of the vertebra being inserted through the connecting part 12. The section of the flexible strip 42 is substantially rectangular so that, the pivot pin 32 and the rod 10 being substantially perpendicular to the transverse process, the ligature has to be partly twisted in order to insert it into the passage 48 and between the ligature [[32]] 42 and the point at which it contacts the transverse process. The fixing system [[12]] is fixed in position against the posterior wall 60 of the vertebra despite these partially twisted portions, the ligature 42 being forcibly tensioned by stretching the free second end 46.